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TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

LESSON NO. 37

BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM

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Lesson Thirty-seven

REVELATION

The third stage of spiritual unfoldment represented by Tarot is Revelation. Revelation is **unveiling, disclosure, discovery**. The discovery is not made **by** the seeker for truth. It is made **to** him. He receives the revelation. He does not lift the veil of Isis. She unveils herself.

Thus Key 17 pictures something which operates from above the level of human personal consciousness. Disclosures made at this stage are not perceived by the physical senses. They are not conclusions reached by the reasoning mind as a consequence of observing externals. On the contrary, these revelations come when the reasoning mind is completely stilled and the senses sealed.

Tzaddi (צ) is the Hebrew letter assigned to Key 17. Its name means "fish-hook". A fish-hook is a symbol for angling. Hence it is related to our ideas of experimentation, quest and research.

The quest is for something not yet definitely realized. It is a groping, a feeling one's way, a "fishing" for something. Thus the symbol of a fish-hook stands for an agency or instrumentality whereby one endeavors to solve problems or enigmas. It typifies a means for discovering secrets, or a method whereby one follows a clue leading to the understanding of a mystery.

Meditation is this agency symbolized by a fish-hook. The Qabalistic BOOK OF FORMATION attributes this activity to Tzaddi and the Hebrew verb (not found in the Bible, but occurring often in Rabbinical writing) means **to think, to speculate, to fancy**. Like the English word **contemplate**, it implies the marking out of a field of observation, limited in extent, wherein the whole force of attention may be brought to bear on some object of thought.

Patanjali defines meditation as "an unbroken flow of knowledge on a particular object". We shall see that the symbolism of Key 17 agrees with this definition. Meditation is close,

continued thought. It is dwelling on one **central** idea, a diving down into the depths of the mind for the various associations connected with the main thought—that is, fishing for truth.

You will note that such associations of ideas are the basis of Tarot practice. You will find this carried out even further when, later on, you come to the detailed study of Qabalistic correspondences and the Tree of Life.

Keys 1, 2 and 3 symbolize the fundamentals of the process. First, the selection of some definite object on which attention is fixed (Key 1). Second, the associative activity represented by the meaning of the letter Gimel (Key 2). Third, the development of mental imagery, the basis of true understanding (Key 3).

These are the mental aspects of the meditative process. What should not be overlooked is that meditation has specific physical results, and employs physical energy in the organism of the person who engages in meditation.

The letter-name Tzaddi, "fish-hook", gives a hint as to this physical part of meditation, because "fish" is represented by the letter Nun and the idea "hook" by the letter Vav. Note also that in נוּן the letters נ and וּ, Nun and Vav, are combined.

The letter Nun, represented by Key 13, is associated with the sign Scorpio and with the secret force governed by that sign. The letter Vav, represented by Key 5, is linked with the sign Taurus. These two are opposite, but complementary, signs. The centers corresponding to them in the human body are also opposite and complementary.

In meditation, the force which expresses itself through the Scorpio field of the human body is **raised and becomes active in the Taurus region** which includes the hearing centers in the brain. The resulting stimulation of these centers enables one to become aware of the Inner Voice represented by the Hierophant. The Hierophant is the Revealer, and Key 17 is a symbol of the Revelation which is made by the Inner Teacher through the Inner Voice.

The numeral value of the character צ, Tzaddi, is 90. This is also the value of the word מים, Mem, the name of the letter symbolized by Key 12, the Hanged Man. The numeral correspondence indicates a relation between the two letters and the ideas they represent.

Even in the meaning of the letter-names we can see this. Certainly, a fish-hook makes one think of water, since it is an instrument for lifting fish out of the water. Water, you will remember, is the occult name for the universal subconsciousness, the Great Sea in which all things have their origin.

Again, the title of Key 12 is synonymous with "The Suspended Mind", and signifies the suspension of the activity of personal consciousness as a result of profound meditation. In

Sanskrit writings on yoga, this suspension is called **Samadhi**, and **Samadhi** is said to lead to the revelation of the highest truths.

Note, in passing, that a fish-hook is usually suspended from a line, so that the fact that it hangs from something is what makes it useful.

In meditation, by keeping the stream of consciousness flowing in relation to some particular object, we gather impression after impression from that object. We become identified with it. Thus we become aware of the object's inner nature. It reveals itself to us.

The object of meditation is usually some sort of problem. Just as one must have the right sort of bait to induce fish to bite, so one must have a definite object for meditation. The reason for meditating is to solve the problem.

Because it **is** a problem, it appears to be the adversary of the person who is meditating. It may look like the Devil himself; but a practical occultist knows this is only the first appearance and disregards it. He knows the solvent power of consciousness and how to apply it.

The first thing to do is to silence the superficial activity of personal consciousness. Just as a fisherman sits quietly, so must one in meditation learn to wait patiently until the fish of thought takes the hook. The hook is always a specific question. They who imagine they are meditating when they sit passively, imitating a jelly-fish by their mental attitude of utter emptiness, are sadly mistaken.

Certain as it is that we ourselves do not discover truth, it is also needful for us to understand that our mental attitude must be one of **active** quest. We must not be content merely to sit still in hope of enlightenment. Quiet we must be, but at the same time **intent** on receiving light on our problem. As the poet says, we must **invite** the soul. In this attitude, we are able to hear the Voice of the Hierophant and he will speak distinctly and definitely.

As we become skilled in the practice of meditation, we find that all we have to do with the disclosure of new aspects of truth is the selection of a specific problem as the pivot for our meditation. In old Egypt there used to be a statue of Isis with an inscription asserting that no mortal had ever lifted her veil. This continues to be true. Yet the veil of Isis is lifted again and again for those who are duly and truly prepared to behold the vision of her presence.

Nature does not hide herself from us. The veil which conceals truth is the veil of human ignorance, the veil of man's foolish belief in his own separateness and mortality and this veil may be removed by the practice of meditation.

The number 17 is composed of the digits 7 and 1, with 7 standing for the power which is expressed and 1 for the agency through which that power operates. In Tarot, 7 is the Chariot, symbol of the receptivity which is so necessary for meditation. The same Key is related to a

special mode of consciousness known as the Intelligence of the House of Influence. Something which flows down into the field of personal consciousness, when we are quiet and receptive, is active in meditation.

He who wishes to meditate must be keenly aware that personality is only a vehicle for the Life-power. He must understand also that the Life-power, being the Word, or Creative Speech, finds expression in **all** forms.

Because the **Word** is actually seated in our hearts, we are able to receive its disclosures of truth. The mental attitude symbolized in Tarot by the Magician is the means whereby truth so disclosed may be put into practical application. Man is the transformer of his environment in accordance with his perceptions of reality. He **is** this, whether he applies his power wisely or unwisely. We are all magicians projecting our own magic circle of circumstance by our mental imagery. When we understand this truth about ourselves and act upon it, we find release from every kind of bondage.

The sign Aquarius, the Water-bearer, is attributed to Tzaddi and thus to Key 17 also. Its symbol is the same as one of the alchemical symbols for dissolution. Thus it is directly connected with ideas we have considered in our study of Key 13. It is clear that the latter is related to Key 17, because the letter Nun, represented by Key 13, means fish.

In the symbolic representation of the fixed signs of the zodiac, in the corners of Keys 10 and 21, Aquarius is indicated by the Man. Man is the great fisher for new forms of truth. He is the possessor of the Universal Solvent described in alchemical books. The Universal Solvent is human consciousness, concentrated and directed in meditation. By means of this, man may solve every one of his problems.

Aquarius is ruled by Uranus and Saturn. These two planets are represented by the first and last Keys of Tarot. Uranus is the Fool and Saturn is the World. Here is a hint that the practice of meditation will eventually find answers to every question from the most abstract to the most concrete. Many other ideas are connected with this co-rulership of Aquarius. Seek to discover them in meditation.

The title, the Star, refers to the universal light-energy which condenses itself into stars. It is the reality behind their physical forms. The explanation of a more recondite meaning of the title must be deferred to another time.

This week, develop the exercise you began last week. Formulate your desires into specific problems. Focus upon them the spotlight of your consciousness. Make every detail clear and definite. Then, with this as a basis, begin the fishing process of meditation.

Do not try to think about your problem's possible solution. Rather **let** the stream of consciousness flow, as it were, past your point of observation. Watch the ideas which seem to rise to the surface of themselves. Reject them unless they show some definite relation to the central idea of your meditation. Keep your object always in view.

COLORING INSTRUCTIONS

KEY 17. THE STAR

Yellow:	The central star.
Green:	Grass, leaves on tree.
Blue:	Background, pool, water from vases. Deeper shade in ovals on the vases and stripes round their necks.
Violet:	Mountains. Note that there are rising hills before the peaks.
Orange:	Vases, except stripes, ovals and handles.
White:	Smaller stars, vase handles, stripes across ovals on vases, except the stripes colored red, the highlights on the water.
Brown:	Tree trunk.
Blonde:	Hair. This can be done beautifully by putting a little darker shade over the shading lines.
Flesh:	The woman's body.
Red:	Top band over oval on vase at left of card; lower band over oval on vase at right; the bird on the tree.